

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 036692

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TO AMEMBASSY BERN

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAG, SZ

SUBJECT: COUNTRY PAPER ON NARCOTICS

1. REQUEST EMBASSY UPDATE ASA, FOLLOWING COUNTRY PAPER ON
NARCOTICS PREPARED IN 1976. SLUG REPLY FOR EUR/CE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: I. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM: THE SWISS
HAVE A RELATIVELY MINOR BUT GROWING DRUG PROBLEM EVEN
THOUGH SWITZERLAND IS NOT A MAJOR TRANSIT ROUTE FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL ILLICIT DRUG TRADE. SWISS PHARMACEUTICAL
AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES ARE MAJOR PRODUCERS OF DRUGS AND
DRUG-RELATED SUBSTANCES, BUT CONTROLS ARE EFFECTIVE AND
THERE IS NO MAJOR OR SYSTEMATIC LEAKAGE INTO ILLEGAL
CHANNELS. THE SWISS GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY TO
ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH REGARD TO THE
INTERNAL USAGE PROBLEM.

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"II. DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS ON PART OF HOST GOVERNMENT:

THE SWISS HAVE CONTINUED TO STEP UP THEIR EFFORTS TO

IMPOSE TIGHTER CONTROLS OVER THE USE OF ILLICIT DRUGS.

THESE EFFORTS INCLUDE MORE EFFECTIVE DETECTION OF NARCOTIC

OFFENDERS AND STIFFENING OF THE LAW ON ILLEGAL DRUG USE.

THEY HAVE ALSO CONTINUED TO IMPROVE COOPERATION BETWEEN

THEIR FEDERAL AND CANTONAL AUTHORITIES ENGAGED IN DRUG CONTROL ACTIVITIES. SWITZERLAND HAS RATIFIED THE SINGLE CONVENTION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS. THE SWISS MAINTAIN REGIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH MEASURES TAKEN BY EUROPEAN ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE, IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE. THEY ALSO TAKE PART IN REGIONAL MEETINGS OF CUSTOMS REPRESENTATIVES ON CONTROL OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. FOR BUDGETARY REASONS, THE SWISS ARE NOT MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNFDAC.

"III. US PROGRAMS: THE SWISS CONTINUE TO BE SENSITIVE TO OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IN KEEPING THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER. WE MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH BERN ON DRUG MATTERS VIA THE DEA OFFICE IN PARIS, AND THIS COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT HAS WORKED WELL IN PRACTICE. THE US-SWISS JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE TREATY WHICH ENTERED INTO FORCE IN JANUARY 1977 SHOULD BE OF SOME HELP IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF ORGANIZED CRIME'S USE OF SWISS BANKING FACILITIES.

HARTMAN

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